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GOOD WORKMANSHIP PRESERVES A SLIP

A costume slip is worn more than most other women's garments. It is subjected to many stresses and strains as the wearer moves about. Unless the fabric requires dry-cleaning, a slip is washed and ironed often and must be built to "take it."

So the workmanship in a slip is important and affects its wearing qualities, says _____, _____. The chief details of construction to check in selecting a slip on the counter are seams, top edge, and hem finish.

Miss _____ suggests looking first at the seams and stitching. Good stitching for a slip has 15 to 18 stitches per inch, with thread that is neither too fine to hold nor too coarse to look well. On soft light-weight fabrics like French crepe and sheer nainsook, narrow French seams are all right. But on heavier materials they are too bulky. Lapped seams or narrow fells are better on heavier satins and crepes made in tailored styles.

Bias-cut seams in some materials do not fray as straight edges do. They can be lapped and lock-stitched on the right side, pinked on the wrong side. Sometimes a zigzag stitching is used for greater strength, but this type of seam may make ridges or ripples that are noticeable through soft dresses. Good, even, close stitching of the seams with threads fastened off securely is just as important in hand-made slips.

Double tops and tailored edge-stitching are good wearing on plain, everyday slips. However, these double tops are somewhat more troublesome to iron than slips with narrow faced edges, double stitched. The best types of dainty lace-trimmed slips have a conservative amount of lace, of uniform strength, with no delicate weak spots, or heavy cording that shows under a dress of soft transparent material. The lace is sewed on with close zigzag stitching, with enough fabric caught underneath to prevent pulling out when the slip is washed. On a lace-trimmed slip the shoulder straps are best attached to the slip fabric for support - not simply to the lace. It is better to have branching straps, attached at two points.

Bound top edges look neat and strong, but the wear they give depends on how much fabric was caught inside the binding, and that's impossible to tell in a finished slip. Hemmed top edges are weak and do not hold the shape of the slip.

At the lower edge a small hem is desirable. Hand-made ornamental top finishes such as shell edge, fagoting, and embroidered edges are neat, flat, and reasonably durable, but they add to the cost. On the lower edge they prevent easy alterations. For the same reason, lace on the lower edge is less desirable than a small plain hem.

The textile division of the Bureau of Home Economics has included a number of other suggestions on selecting costume slips in a new Farmers' Bulletin, Number 1851, entitled "Women's Dresses and Slips - a Buying Guide." Copies can be obtained free by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture.

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